SOME
TRIFLING THOUGHTS
ON
SERIOUS SUBJECTS.

ADDRESSED TO

The EARL of S——H.

WITH

A DESCRIPTION of MODERN PATRIOTISM,

And a DELINEATION of the
Principles of the preſent OPPOSITION.

TO WHICH IS ADDED,

LIBERTY, A DREAM,
&c. &c. &c.

In ſhort, it's an odd mixture of things various——
haſh'd up together in haſte.——But,

——*So pat to all the tribe,*
Each cries, that was levell'd at me.

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WHAT TRIFLING THOUGHTS ON SERIOUS SUBJECTS!

MY LORD,

THOUGH perhaps it may carry with it ſomewhat an odd appearance to many in the world —— my making choice of ſuch a ſubject, as that of Matrimony, to entertain your Lordſhip with; — yet, when I reflect, that the better part of mankind, by which I would be underſtood to mean, thoſe of a more grave and thinking turn, may poſſibly be different in their opinion.—I inſtantly loſe all fear of cenſure on that ſcore, and go on with — as indeed I have moſt juſtly termed them — my trifling thoughts

on the fatal clog ſo heavily impos'd on Matrimony, and the general diſcouragement given to it, among all ranks and claſſes of people; — ſubmitting the whole to your much more capable judgment. I do not aim, my Lord, at giving you any information upon ſubjects, that no doubt have frequently been the objects of your retired reflection: — but only to revive, to bring back, as it were, into your thoughts, — the ill conſequences ſuch cauſes muſt,—and indeed have already produced; and remind you of the opportunity you now have of being the happy inſtrument of redreſſing them.

It would be impertinent in me, as well as unneceſſary, to trouble your Lordſhip with a tedious recounting of the different forms and ceremonies that have prevailed in different countries and nations in reſpect to this inſtitution, as you, my Lord, who are much deeper read than I can poſſibly pretend to be, muſt be infinitely better acquainted with them than I am. I ſhall therefore only beg leave to make one obſervation, — That it has been an inſtitution encouraged and promoted to the greateſt degree, by every wiſe

people and government, hiſtory hath handed down to us an account of, — as the baſis on which, their very being, both as a people and ſtate, was founded. Since therefore, my Lord, it appears from the moſt antient records left us of things — that this has always been made a grand object of attention, by all thoſe men entruſted with the care and management of public affairs, in ſtates and kingdoms the moſt flouriſhing, and in governments the moſt approved — Surely, my Lord, ſo far from its being to be thought unworthy your conſideration — it more immediately becomes your duty and concern; —eſpecially, as from the circumſtances of the times, partly from neglect; — the term cannot be thought improper, when I ſay, and partly from its being generally diſcountenanced; —it ſo particularly calls out for aſſiſtance from the miniſterial hand of power. —The hurry of the times, and the weighty buſineſs of the war, may afford ſome ſhew of excuſe for the miniſtry of late years, not attending ſo cloſely to this moſt material point, as undoubtedly it was their duty to have done; but now, my Lord, no plea can be alledged; nothing can excuſe the preſent ad-

miniſtration, the not giving of it their moſt ſerious *attentive* conſideration.

The diſcontented ſpirit of Europe is once again ſettled into peace: all is quiet abroad; all may be ſo at home; but this, my Lord, can only be effected by convincing proofs in your Lordſhip, as well as in thoſe other gentlemen,—who, together with you, have the HONOUR to SERVE the PUBLIC, in the moſt eminent poſts of confidence and truſt—of a conſtant and ſteady attention, to not only the general but to each minute particular, wherein the welfare of the kingdom is, in any ſhape, intereſted or concerned. Theſe proofs—unqueſtionably certain it is, they are expected, it is not leſs ſo, that they will be required — muſt ariſe from an approved ſeries of conduct, which muſt manifeſt, and carry along with it an aſſurance of —— not only an earneſt deſire, and real intent, but —an honeſt endeavour and an unwearied application to remedy thoſe evils, which unavoidably have ariſen, and muſt neceſſarily always be produced in a country, that has long been under the calamitous circumſtance of war.

The

The great machine of government in this kingdom has ſuffered more than the common inconvenience and hurt incident to it, from ſuch an oppreſſive weight, by as much as the rapidneſs and expenſive load of the *late* war has exceeded any other this nation has — 'till theſe times — been ſubject to. It therefore, my Lord, becomes doubly a duty in thoſe who have the direction of it now, to employ their moſt ſtudious thoughts, and diligent care to repair the injury it hath received.

The maſter-ſprings, or thoſe principal parts of the machine, that,—from the violent motion the whole has been hurried on with—have been moved out of their proper order and place — have loſt their elaſticity or power, or have been overſtrained by the rapidity of their movements, muſt be anew wound up, and have that force and ſtrength given to them, that they may not be weakned or dragged about, by the inequalities of the balance they are intended to regulate; and thoſe leſſer wheels that have ſlackned in their courſe for the want of being properly acted upon, or have quite ſtood ſtill from

from the prodigious preſſure on the whole mechaniſm, muſt receive again their due degree of motion from the principal moving powers, thereby to be reſtored to their neceſſary and co-operating movements; unleſs this be done, unleſs each minute part be duly attended to in the general repair, great inconveniences,—tho' they will not perhaps affect ſo far as to occaſion a total ſtop—muſt neceſſarily and frequently too, be felt.

I imagine, my Lord, I ſhall have no great difficulty in getting your Lordſhip to allow —that the increaſe of a people is a principal part,—nay, the main-ſpring of government itſelf: and that every weight flung upon that, tending in any degree to the leſſening of its progreſs, is in the higheſt inſtance alarming; and requires the immediate attention of the legiſlature to remove it.—What effects it *would* produce, I have little occaſion to point out;—they are already felt: and if we carry our view on farther, the proſpect grows ever the more melancholy.

If your Lordſhip be not already perſuaded of what I have advanced,—'tis but to beg

of

of you to ſtep with me for a moment into the country, to convince you of the truth of my aſſertion.—Liſten, my Lord, to the general cry and clamour through the land.—Is not the farmer,—that firſt, that principal mover of trade,—loud in his complaint, that the Hands of labour, are — by many, — too few for his purpoſe.— Hear but the manufacturer,—does he not echo round the ſame melancholy note; — and has it not fallen, my Lord, under your own knowledge and experience, that this is a grievance heavily complained of, by almoſt every other trade and profeſſion?—The fewer are the hands, the higher will the price of labour riſe, the price of labour will determine that of the produce; this, of courſe, muſt regulate that of the market, which, if high, diſtreſſes the poor.—— Why, my Lord, in ſeveral counties, and ſome of them the moſt northern ones, where labour, it would be expected, ſhould come at a more eaſy rate —— the wages of a common huſbandman are, within theſe few years, riſen from ſix pounds a year to twelve, doubled, my Lord.

This

This being——as upon my honour, my Lord, I am well aſſured by gentlemen of property in thoſe counties, is, —— the real ſtate of the caſe;—— how in the nature of things is it poſſible —— but that all ſorts of proviſions muſt come dear! ——For, if the farmer is obliged, either from additional tax, to pay his landlord higher rent — or if he is under the neceſſity of giving more wages for the working of his farm,—which is one and the ſame thing, only a difference in the mode of encreaſing it—What muſt—what can he do? —He is ſenſible his rent muſt at all events be paid, and to do that, he muſt make a profit out of his farm;—why then,—as it happens now, my Lord,——he raiſes the price of his commodities, which occaſions the cry of diſtreſs, that at preſent prevails through the country. ——This, my Lord,—as I conceive it — is one of the evils that ſpring from that I have mentioned.

But as another proof of what I have advanced,——let but a poor wench, offer her ſervices to a family; —— is there not commonly, before the merits of her ſervitude, are at all entered upon, or enquired into—a previous

vious queſtion put —— for theſe political ſhifts, my Lord, are not confined to any particular quarter of the town, they extend themſelves—univerſally, every where.—And is not ſhe herſelf ſenſible that being *married* is the *ſure* means to diſqualify her for the place, —knowing it to be an objection in almoſt every family, to the taking of a ſervant.—And what is this, my Lord, but a general diſcountenance — at leaſt to this claſs of people, ——which I look upon to be no inconſiderable one in the ſtate; ——not in point of numbers only, but the being moſt of them of that age, —— the moſt ſerviceable and uſeful.

I am aware, my Lord, that it will be ſaid by ſome——that the exceptions made to married ſervants, are from the extreme trouble and inconvenience they create in a family;——and likewiſe as it divides their attention, by the application it becomes neceſſary for them to give to their own affairs.—That it prohibits not, thoſe who are ſingle, from marrying;——and that it is obſervable, ſervants, when they come to a certain time of life, and have by length of ſervice got toge-

ther a little fund of their own to ſet out upon—do marry, and become as uſeful ſubjects to the ſtate, —— by producing families for its ſervice —— as ever they might have been.

As to the firſt part,——I willingly grant, my Lord,—that, undoubtedly, where a ſervant has a family of her own, —— her care and attention, which before were directed to one, are leſſened towards that, by being applied to more objects.——So that of courſe, ſhe——in the capacity of a ſervant——becomes leſs valuable.——Beſides, there are other, —— many, I muſt confeſs —— great inconveniences——as a ſervant —— attending her being married. —— But, however, it may anſwer the particular convenience of individuals — ſervants remaining ſingle ; — yet the effect is equally dangerous and deſtructive to the ſtate.

As to any direct prohibition, —— that it certainly cannot be ; — but let me aſk theſe gentlemen, whether, upon a ſtrict conſideration of the matter,—they do not really and truly believe, that it has, is, and will ſtill be

be—if not remedied, — the means of keeping the major part, nay, three fourths of that claſs of people from marrying—from a conviction within themſelves of its being the certain means to put them out of the only way of life, they have any proſpect of gaining a maintenance by.—— For, — generally ſpeaking——theſe people are hands taken from the plough —— totally ignorant of — as never having been brought up to any profeſſion;——and, who, having once bettered their ſituation by ſervice,——comparatively to them——a life of ſloth, eaſe, indolence, and luxury—will never be brought back to the hard taſk of country-labour.

As to the obſervation, that when by many years ſervice, they have acquired a little ſtock of their own — they do marry — granted—and then become as uſeful ſubjects to the ſtate, &c. — I muſt beg leave to diſagree ſomewhat in. For in the courſe of years they have been heaping together this independent livelihood, which enables them at laſt to ſettle — has lapſed that time of life, which only could have rendered their marrying — a public advantage. For though,

perhaps, by dint of uncommon pains and care, they may be early in reaping the fruits of their induſtry,—yet, the ſooneſt date to fix that at, muſt be, when the parties are moving towards their thirty-fifth, or fortieth year—an age,—I believe, no man, my Lord, who was much anxious for the getting of an heir to his eſtate, would think of chuſing a wife of——However, if from an union of this kind a family ſhould ſpring up,——as is certainly very reaſonably to be expected——might it not likewiſe be as reaſonably ſuppoſed—that had the ſame parties come together in the early part of their lives—their iſſue would have been numerous.—If this reaſoning holds good, the great diſadvantage ariſing from the diſcountenancing of marriages among ſervants muſt evidently appear.—It is an opinion, my Lord, I am by no means bigotted to—quite the reverſe.—It is a melancholy truth, I am uneaſy at being obliged to give belief and credit to.—Should I have formed a wrong judgment upon the affair, I would with great pleaſure recant what I have ſaid—upon a fair conviction—— that the caſe is not really in its event, as I have here ſtated it.

But,

But, my Lord,——the more we conſider it——the more I fear we ſhall have grounds to think it juſt.——And what is worſt of all,——its ill conſequences are not confined to this alone.——It is fraught with horrid, ſhocking effects——dreadful miſerable evils. We ſhall find it to be the very foundation of all that vice, and ſcene of wicked debauchery,——London is but too juſtly termed the nurſery of—to the ſhame of good order and government——to the proverbial reproach of the kingdom.——When the head is become ſo diſtempered, my Lord, the diſeaſe will ſoon ſpread itſelf throughout the whole body.——In this inſtance, I am afraid it will be found to have done ſo too much already.

Thoſe women that are bleſſed with a ſhare of perſonal advantages——and there be few, who having youth on their ſide, but what poſſeſs ſome in the eye of one man or other;——but eſpecially thoſe,——who have the allowed opinion of being goodlike or handſome,——no ſooner make they their appearance in the world, be it little or great——for I do not mean, my Lord, to confine

confine the word to that ſenſe only, in which probably *you* may always have heard it uſed in ——but to expreſs by it, *that circle*, in which every individual moves, whether it be in high or low life.——I ſay, my Lord, no ſooner is a young girl arrived at that time of life, when ripening beauty begins to attract, and draw towards it the attention of the other ſex, —— but ſhe is immediately beſet with half a ſcore of thoſe impertinent——I know not what to term them —— *teazers* —— creatures, who, in an higher ſphere of life, go by the more polite name of —— *flirts*, a kind of amphibious animal, ſomewhat between a gallant and a debauchee,—— but not having wit, vivacity, and accompliſhments to reach the one——and the being of much too delicate a conſtitution, and effeminate a nature to become the other, ſinks into a kind of ——in itſelf ——inſignificant mean between the two, —— and aſſumes a right to impoſe the mulct of attention to its horrid impertinence, for the wear of an handſome face——the poſſeſſing of an elegant figure or perſon,——or whatever it be the fair one has——in this ſenſe, —— the misfortune to be ſingled out for. —— My

pity

pity and compaſſion have oftentimes been ſo moved at obſerving a young lady——doing, as it were, penance for her beauty, by being obliged to liſten to the impertinent converſation——made more ſo——generally——by the ſubject——of one of theſe wretches, whom ſhe has by every means poſſible, tried to ſhake from her——inattention——leaving him——and, at laſt, by words ſo very direct and plain, they could not miſs conveying her ſentiments and diſlike——that it has been with great difficulty I have refrained from reſenting her ill-uſage myſelf, by giving to the *thing*——that correction——its coward inſolence deſerved.

Theſe creatures whom I have above, my Lord, pronounced to be——in themſelves——inſignificant——are in their effects of very pernicious conſequence:——for the paſſions being raiſed and ſtirred up, from an outward acting upon, by theſe animals,——who,——though from their own diſagreeableneſs,——as well alſo as themſelves having no further view, than juſt to catch the eye of public remark,——reap

not the advantage of their work; —— yet, from the enemy they have rouſed within, they are the means of rendering the conqueſt an eaſy taſk to him, who next attacks, deſigning to lay waſte the goodly fortreſs.

But to return to the ſubject I was upon. —Though it is become a point of intereſt among ſervants to refrain from a *lawful* indulging of their paſſions; —yet this reſtraint put upon a proper gratification of them does not by any means tend to ſuppreſs them — ſo far otherwiſe—that from the univerſal and approved obſervations upon—human nature, it will be found to give rather a new edge and power to them.——They therefore not being allowed,—for the reaſon I have given, ——to move in that proper channel, it is for the good of ſociety they ſhould flow in, —are turned into one,——ruinous, and violent in its courſe, which, like a torrent, bears down every thing before it——overwhelming all, with miſery and deſtruction. —— Hence comes, my Lord, that conſtant ſupply to thoſe ſwarms of poverty, infamy and diſeaſe, which at the cloſe of every day buz forth from every quarter of the town. ——

The

The diligent and active magiſtrate, to whom the cities of London and Weſtminſter are much indebted for his uncommon vigilance and attention——to each branch of the police, has, indeed, taken this under his conſideration, and uſed all thoſe means the law impowered him to——towards the remedying of this public evil.——But, what, tho' we read of a detachment of twelve coaches having this morning been ſent fully laden to Bridewell, ſtill we ſhall find no alteration in the evening:——the main body, in appearance, will be much the ſame——not leſſened——at leaſt——not viſibly ſo.——The parties at the general places of rendezvous, ——the Strand——the Park——Covent-Garden——Drury-Lane——as ſtrong as ever;——no centinels taken off,——and the little flying-ſcouts in every court and alley appear as uſual.

But I am much to blame, and humbly aſk your pardon, my Lord, for this unſeaſonable merriment, on a ſubject ſo ſerious, and whatever light you view it in,——one, ſo fraught with melancholy,——big with ſo much wretchedneſs:——one, my Lord,——

that even the ſlighteſt reflection upon muſt raiſe in every breaſt that is not yet ſo callous and incruſted by the world, as to be *quite* deaf to the call of compaſſion, —— thoſe tender ſentiments —— that commiſeration which affliction,——in this inſtance, made *more* deep, *more* weighty, *more* oppreſſive, by its falling on that part of the ſpecies, — formed the tendereſt of the kind, — whoſe ſofter natures were not framed to fight with difficulties, —— too delicately made to cope with hardſhips.—I ſay, my Lord, to ſee a poor diſtemper-eaten wretch, —— one too, whom heaven ordained ſhould find a refuge for its weakneſs and diſtreſs, under man's protection,—beſet,—— cloſe-preſſed — bore down by miſery, and misfortune's load of ills, want,——hunger,——cold,——contempt, diſeaſe, —— deſpair.—— Good God! my Lord,——would not this awaken in every heart, that is not *quite* loſt to the feelings of a man, not *quite* dead to the ſoft touches of pity and humanity, that compaſſion for its ſufferings, that deſire to aſſiſt and relieve its wretchedneſs, which want and miſery ſo movingly excite, —— which the diſtreſs of the unfortunate ſo juſtly have a claim to.

It

It may be objected to me here, my terming it the diſtreſs of the unfortunate; — but, my Lord,—I think, —— though it may, in ſome ſhape, be deemed an evil voluntarily incurred, yet,——there is much to be ſaid why we ſhould give it that ſhare of pity, which is particularly due to the diſtreſs of the unfortunate: — for, when we conſider the corrupt frailty of our nature; —— the temptations we are on every ſide beſet with, and which the beſt of us are, for the moſt part, but too open and ready to give way to,—together with the conſtant and powerful ſolicitations, that on every occaſion urge us on to the indulging of thoſe natural paſſions which excite to a familiarity between the ſexes; —— one ſurely can allow ſomewhat more, — one ſurely may relax a little of our ſeverity.

For to ſpeak from preſent experience and obſervation upon the manners of the age we live in, —— rather than in the ſtyle of an antique Roman——was a virtuous girl—— which, perhaps, my Lord, you may think is preſuming a little too far — unfortunately to attract the attention of a vitious deſigning

man; and was he to uſe his wily tricks and artifices againſt her, — carry them on with ſubtilty, and the cloak of continued deceit, —— nay, and to put on —— for the better concealing of his deſign,— the very garb of fair ſincerity itſelf; —would you be ſurprized, or rather, would you not be ſurprized was ſhe—unleſſoned in diſſimulation's ſchool, ——and whoſe honeſt unſuſpecting nature led not to a diſtruſt of what look'd and ſpoke ſo fair —— to elude the dangerous ſnare? — A poet's fancy, who might perſonify theſe images, would, perhaps, end the matter differently. — But, my Lord, to conſider them in the light we have done,——as qualities belonging to human nature, and actually poſſeſſed by individuals,—common and fatal experience will, I fear, too powerfully plead for my opinion; —— and though, my Lord, your reſpect for the virtue might not in that individual be quite ſo high as before it had given way, yet, my Lord, would your anger, ſeverity, and reſentment be raiſed againſt, —— or would not rather the ſofter turn of pity move you to compaſſionate the diſtreſs of the unfortunate. —— Anger, reſentment, and ſeverity, ſhould all of them be exerciſed,

exerciſed, but upon a different object——the worker of this ruin——this enemy to worth and goodneſs.

I could ſcarce prevail upon myſelf to believe——did not every day furniſh me with freſh proofs of its being ſo—that it were poſſible for one who wore the form of manhood ——to be ſo far gone,——ſo far hardened in the extreme of vice,——that,——with a mind perfectly calm and at eaſe, he could meet and behold, without the leaſt ſting,—the leaſt remorſe of conſcience;—but more, he would exult,——would boaſt,——would triumph,—nay, would glory in the recounting of the number of objects his arch villainy, his coward treachery, had reduced to beggary,—to want,——to ſhame,—and to diſeaſe,——to a life of wretchedneſs, *here*—perhaps, to *eternal* miſery——*hereafter*. That *ſuch* characters,——that *ſuch* men do exiſt, I need only to appeal to your Lordſhip,——whoſe juſt obſervation, founded on experience of your own,—I am but too apprehenſive will confirm.—And now, my Lord, does not your indignation riſe?—Do you not perceive within you a call to virtue?

—Some-

——Something that ſeems to bid you arm in her defence?——And feel you not an honeſt warmth glow through every vein, that ſpurs you on to vindicate this inſult upon your kind?—— Oh! the depravity of man! Alas!——Where is that boaſted excellence of thought?—— That glorious divinity of nature?——That exalted mind by which he was e'en wont to clime to heaven itſelf?—Shame to the world—confuſion to the race, ſunk—— lower than brutality.—— The great ſeducer of mankind is but ſhallow in his practice now of wickedneſs and art. For man——e'en man, outdoes him: he ſports in vice; he wantons in diſſimulation. The devil is himſelf abaſh'd, and turns aſide his face:——ſo hideous doth vice appear when looked upon. — Bluſh,— bluſh ye ſenſeleſs, ——ſhameleſs crew.

Since then, we find all the attempts, my Lord, made by the magiſtrate I have ſpoken of,——to endeavour to check and remove this evil,——have proved of no effect;—— we may reaſonably conclude, that the diſeaſe hath taken ſuch root,——it is got above the reach of thoſe common remedies, which the

law prescribes to be made use of in cases of this kind. Recourse must therefore be had to others more powerful —— I do not mean by that, my Lord,——such as are severe in their operations,——but such, my Lord, as may effect a radical cure, by gently mixing with the inward mass of the blood and juices, and by cleansing and sweetning those,—give a new turn to the constitution. —— A prescription of this sort requires the consideration of the state's physicians, it being above the power and reach of those who act by their directions only.

Though Sir John Fielding has not succeeded in this instance so well as his sanguine hopes for the public might perhaps have made him wish to have done, yet, I hope it will not prove a discouragement to him, to the exerting of his diligent attention and active vigilance towards using the utmost of his power, to root out, — if possible — a vice,—the most *unnatural* and dangerous of any, and which there is but too much room to suspect and believe, gains daily among us. —— What a reflection is it upon a society of men?—Upon a people living under order

and

and government,—that there ſhould be public walks—nightly places of aſſembling for a ſet of wretches, who practice at their meetings, a vice,—of all others the *moſt beaſtly, infamous*, and *unmanly?*—One,—that the very *bare* mention of——is ſhocking to human nature; one—that in its effects tend to no leſs than the very extirpating of the ſpecies. The law formerly decreed thoſe who were proved guilty of this *damnable* ſin to the ſtake;—but at that happy period of our conſtitution, when our better-natured religion moved us to lay aſide all ſavage unnatural torments, and cruel inhuman puniſhments; this was taken into the general plan of mercy and humanity,—tho' little has it to plead for the protection of either.—I could have wiſhed that this, this *one* alone had been exempted, thereby to have ſet an additional mark of abhorrence upon it.

As our law at preſent ſtands in regard to this crime, as I conceive it, if the act *be not performed*, it puniſhes not with death,—— whereas, in a caſe of this nature, I am apt to think, though I ſubmit my opinion—the ſureſt way to deter is to look upon the *intent*

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as the *deed**. — Either the man is, or is not guilty,—and according to the proof brought, ſtands acquitted or condemned. —— Now, an *attempt proved* in *this* caſe ſhews him equally guilty, though indeed the act be not directly committed:—for an attempt of this ſort can *only* be with *one view* to accompliſh *one* wicked intent,——and that prompted by nothing but a premeditated, vitious, unnatural diſpoſition, — it leaves not a power to gueſs at its end, or what might have been the deſign of the criminal:—nor has it thoſe pleas to weigh in its favour with the court, —the frailty of man,—the ſway of paſſions, —heat of temper,——and a thouſand other things, which in every other caſe would be conſidered in favour of the criminal.—— In ſhort, the *attempt proved*——no favourable conſtruction can be put upon it: whereas, in other matters, provided the horſe be not really ſtollen, the houſe be not actually broke open, the man be not *ipſo facto* murdered, the intent is only to be gueſſed at from appearances, and it reſts with the jury to form

* By the foreſt law, the will is reputed for the fact, ſo that a man found hunting of a deer may be arreſted as if he had taken it.

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their judgment of that from the circumſtances produced before them; which judgment can only be grounded upon *circumſtantial* evidence, but in this, it is upon *abſolute poſitive* proof. I do therefore think, my Lord, an *attempt* of this kind, legally proved by witneſſes, which, as I have conſidered it, is the *fact* itſelf, ſhould be puniſhed with *death.*

It is aſtoniſhing to me, ſo much as we are told *this vice* prevails, that ſo very few examples are made, and even thoſe treated with a great degree of lenity.——But what ſhould we ſay, my Lord, were we to hear, —were we ourſelves to live in thoſe times, when a wretch,——noted for every villainy and vice under heaven,—even this,—moſt curſed,—moſt infamous of all,—were we, I ſay, to ſee the *patent* of *nobility* conferred on this many-headed monſter, this hydra of vice,——were we to behold the fountain of honour corrupted thus, abuſed;—*ſhould* the rewarding hand of virtuous merit be ſo abominably impoſed upon, ſo ſhamefully miſguided as to be induced to ſhed its honours on a wretch like this.—Still, ſtill, we might hope——the ſame noble ſpirit would exert

itſelf

itſelf in *this* kingdom — the ſame honeſt indignation and abhorrence that ſhewed themſelves on a ſimilar occaſion in ſome *other* country, *would* appear among us.—His very peers, diſguſted and aſhamed, to ſee all diſtinction thus thrown down, 'twixt good and bad —— 'twixt vice and virtue, — to ſee thoſe dignities which the deſerving hand of long and truſty ſervice, in *former* times, *alone* could reach, —— now ſettled on the worſt-abandoned of the ſpecies, — rouſed by thoſe generous feels, which ſtrike each manly heart, when virtue is treated with contempt and inſult, — they publicly refuſed to acknowledge of their order, *this earthly devil*, ſet up, as it were, in mockery of goodneſs.—But as the ſtory goes, after a length of time, ſneaking contrivance gained him a ſeat among them. I pray you, mark, my Lord, 'twas by mere ſtealth; —— yet, though he has a voice in their debates,—the privilege of the coronet he wears; — he is ſhunned, deteſted, loathed, abhorred by *them* ——by all.

Should —— excuſe my abſurdity, in ſuppoſing what I confeſs to be an impoſſibility,

—*ſhould* Britain's K—, my Lord, by raſh or haſty council, be moved to ſuch an act, —*ſhould* that pure ſtream, which, as it flows, gives dignity to worth,—and adds reſpect to virtue, — be at its fount, polluted thus and ſtained? — Should that moſt god-like ray of beaming majeſty be dimn'd thus and ſullied; — to think, my Lord,—Gods! — it will not bear the thought —— Oh, *Churchill*, *ſhould* ſuch damn'd proſtitution blacken this our age, then might thy honeſt laſh be judged ſomewhat more kindly of;—then might thy —ſo titled—poem, be deemed as applicable to the times. Thy manly generous ſatyr as wholeſomely adminiſtered, to ſhame and ſcourge this *moſt* abhorred and *hell-like* vice. Was he too warm? too warm he *could* not be. Even GOD himſelf, ſo *rank* is this offence in heaven's eye, poured down *peculiar* vengeance on its practice.—But ſoft,—leſt I diſturb thy aſhes; — oh thou, moſt excellent Genius, this theme will animate anew thy duſt; — make thee ſtart up again with vital warmth from the clay-cold grave, to vindicate afreſh the dignity of human kind, —depraved thus,—and far, —far more than brutally debaſed. — Peace to thy earth-laid bones,

bones, — thou friend to human nature. —— All quiet, reſt, and undiſturbed repoſe dwell ever round thy tomb:—and if in future time ſome travelling ſtranger ſhall thither bend his wandering ſteps,——there, let him give one pitying ſigh to genius loſt,—unwarily drawn in to be the tool of ſervile party — there let him drop one mournful tear,—lamenting—frail humanity.

But to return: — Theſe, my Lord, were the points I purpoſed taking the liberty to trouble your Lordſhip with my Trifling Thoughts upon,——and if it would not be greatly treſpaſſing upon your time,— I ſhould beg leave juſt to ſketch a few of the outlines to you, according to the plan that has occurred to me; and which, I think, when improved by that great ſhare of underſtanding and parts your Lordſhip is ſo generally allowed to poſſeſs, — may probably prove the means to remedy theſe great evils.

No axiom in Euclid has, I think, more univerſal and ready aſſent given to it,—than this old maxim, — that the ſtrength and riches of a ſtate conſiſt in the number of its inha-

inhabitants.—Is it not then the moſt impolitic and unwiſe ſtep that ever can be taken by government,—adopting, — and more ſo, —perſiſting in thoſe meaſures which act directly contrary to it;—and yet is it not generally allowed,—and that too, my Lord, from the beſt,—though moſt melancholy proof,—experience of the evil, — ſuch have been the effects the late Marriage Act has produced? —Had the great man who framed that bill—as common fame reports —— merely from a family view; — had he, I ſay, confined it in ſuch a manner as might have obviated a confuſion of ranks and claſſes in the ſtate,—it would have as completely anſwered the purpoſe he aimed at in the getting of it paſſed into a law, — and not have occaſioned quite ſo bad conſequences as we have felt and ſuffered from it, as it would not then have extended its effects to the lower order of people.— Not that I, by any means, my Lord, plead for ſuch a bill, — only as an act *was* to be contrived, — that would, I think, have been the leſſer evil of the two. Dr. Halley, —— though he knew not the trimming policy of a ſtate, — yet he underſtood the real intereſt of it in this reſpect, full as well as the

author of the bill above-mentioned: and his opinion was,—that the growth and increaſe of mankind — was not ſtinted by any thing, ſo much as by the curious difficulty —— ſo little was there a neceſſity for the enhancing of it——people generally make in venturing upon the ſtate of marriage —— and therefore it was his opinion, and one, I am ſure, your Lordſhip will readily join with him in, ——that *celibacy* ought to be every way diſcouraged by all wiſe governments; ——and that thoſe who had numerous families of children ſhould be countenanced and encouraged by good laws, — ſuch as the *jus trium liberorum* of the Romans; — among whom *Dionyſius Halicarnaſſus* mentions an old law that obliged all perſons of age to marry. — And the *Papia Poppæa Lex* to this purpoſe, is ſo well known, it would be unneceſſary to ſay more of it.

As it is univerſally agreed, that the Marriage Act hath been of evil tendency,—the firſt ſtep to be taken therefore in this caſe — is to repeal that bill,—for where you intend to puſh forward the growth of a tree—that hath been rather check'd and prevented in the

the putting forth of its branches, — the readieſt and ſureſt method—is, firſt to remove what has obſtructed—by having been heaped upon, or gathered around it, — for by theſe means you will not only give it full room and liberty to ſpread and extend itſelf,——but you will be able to get with more eaſe to water, earth, and aſſiſt it, as different occaſions and ſeaſons may require.

This difficulty then, being removed, the method I would beg leave to propoſe, my Lord, —— in order to encourage and promote the growth of matrimony,—ſhould be, by allotting to the poor ſort——affixing certain bounds and marks to that term —— of every pariſh, a kind of dowry, that ſhould be given with the wife upon every marriage. —Theſe dowries might ariſe from a tax levied on all * batchelours, or widowers having no children, in the kingdom.—— This tax to

* I think it was in K. William's reign, for I quote only from memory, there was a tax upon all marriages, widows, batchelors, &c.—The firſt is ſo contrary to the principles I am arguing upon, I cannot but be of opinion, that it was an ill-judged one—that upon widows was

to be proportioned according to the ſeveral ranks, eſtates, incomes, and employments, from the age of eighteen to ſixty, increaſing as the perſons it is raiſed upon advance in years, ſtill being unmarried. For example, a minor, who ſhould have upon coming of age, an income of five hundred pounds per ann. he ſhould pay—— any ſum that might upon a general calculation, — which I ſhall not enter into here, — be ſettled and agreed upon——we'll ſay, for inſtance, ten pounds yearly——at the age of twenty-one, increaſe it five pounds;—— if he be ſtill a batchelor four years after that, —— let his mulct be twenty pounds per ann.—ten years after that double it,——and ſo on in proportion.—— Now the fund ariſing from this tax will not only —— as I imagine —— ſerve amply the

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was, I think, puniſhing them,—which of all others is the moſt cruel treatment —— for their misfortune, not their fault. If it could poſſibly be proved a widow had refuſed to marry one of her own rank and condition, ſhe might then indeed be judged to come properly within the intent of the act — but this would, I believe, ſo ſeldom happen, that a mighty inconſiderable addition would ariſe from it to the fund —— they might as well therefore have been altogether exempted.

purpoſe I would have it aſſigned to——but it will furniſh ſufficient rewards and premiums, that might be given and beſtowed among this order of people, upon the principle of the *jus trium liberorum*. —— Theſe premiums, as well as the dowries to be given at marriages, ſhould be paid by the officer appointed for the collecting and applying properly this fund, —— who ſhould take an oath, that he will not ſuffer it to be otherwiſe made uſe of than for the intent deſigned, upon his entering upon his employment, and another upon his laying it down, that it *has* been appropriated *ſolely* to *that* uſe, — at the producing of a certificate, ſigned by the prieſt of the pariſh for that purpoſe, who ſhould keep a regiſter of what certificates he may ſign, and return it regularly to the biſhop's court. How far theſe two circumſtances would be thought to promote and increaſe marriages in the kingdom —— I ſubmit entirely to your opinion, my Lord.

You might, perhaps, think it adviſeable, my Lord, to exempt the navy and army from being ſubject to this tax — I mean all under

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the degree of commiſſioned officer.—— Not that I can by any means agree in, or think right, what I have been confidently told——though I wiſh my information may have been wrong——that there has been an inſtance of a commanding officer having uſed the authority of his commiſſion to forbid his men, on pain of incurring his high diſpleaſure, entering upon that ſtate.——If this be true,— ſuch an unmanly inſolence in the *one*, founded upon the ignorance of the *other*, —— is, I think, paſt excuſe, and merits exemplary puniſhment. I own my ſentiments are ſo widely different in this affair— that were I of the profeſſion, being married, or the having of a family, would rather be a perſuaſive motive with me to give upon all occaſions thoſe little indulgences that might be ſhewn in regard to duty——to this man, preferable to one who was ſingle.

I would likewiſe propoſe, my Lord, that public buildings,— on ſomewhat the ſame plan as the Foundling Hoſpital in London— ſhould be erected in each county. But then, my Lord, let it be remembered,—— that they are houſes intended for the relief of the

poor and the diſtreſſed —— and as ſuch, all magnificence and ſhew are quite prepoſterous. —— What an abſurdity? what a contradiction is it to common ſenſe? —that a child, who is reared up by the public hand of charity, ſhould be nurſed in a ſtately manſion, more fit for the habitation of a prince than that of deſerted orphans. The ſaying of foreigners upon this particular, ——though it ſeems to have pleaſed ſome people who have thought it a compliment paid to the generoſity and humane diſpoſition of the inhabitants of this country, has—I own,—always ſtruck me in a far different light ——I look upon it as rather pointing out our inconſiſtency, and, indeed, I think this is an inſtance that affords too much grounds for affixing that character upon us.

Proper perſons choſen by a free election of the principal gentlemen of the county—ſhould be appointed as directors or maſters over the children, with moderate ſalaries — yet ſufficient, that they may make this employ the ſole object of their thoughts.—The children ſhould be brought up in the moſt rough and hardy manner. Diligence and

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a habit of labour ſhould be by every poſſible means—encouraged and inſtilled into them, ——and all idle, lazy, humours, meet with ſevere and harſh treatment. — Thus induſtry, by cuſtom, will become ſo woven in with their diſpoſitions and nature, that idleneſs and ſloth will ever afterwards be an uneaſineſs, and an irkſome inconvenience to them.

A certain number of theſe might be annually 'prenticed out at the expence of the ſeveral hoſpitals —— at the age of ten or twelve years old,——for the term of ten or fourteen years, —— to the principal farmers of the county—in the like manner as others may be to different trades and arts.—— Articling only in the agreement or covenant made on the behalf of thoſe deſigned for the plough—that after ſuch a term is elapſed,— we'll ſay the uſual time,——ſeven years,— the lad ſhall be entitled for the next three years to half the price that is uſually given in the neighbourhood for labour,—— and for the remainder of his time four fifths *.

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* Apprentices are bound by their indentures not to marry during the time of their apprenticeſhip; now, at the

By this the country would be conſtantly ſupplied with hands for labour, and for the cultivating of it, —— which otherwiſe would flock to the neighbouring towns and cities, ——and by overſtocking thoſe, be the means of raiſing the price of the market, and occaſion ſcarcity and diſtreſs, which, I believe, upon examination, will be found to be in ſome meaſure the caſe at preſent.

For the erecting of theſe public buildings, — money ſhould be given by parliament — which laid out with œconomy, —— under the inſpection and management of proper and intelligent people, —— ſo that it might not come to be made a job of —— would, comparatively——amount to a very trifling ſum. —— A few thouſand pounds will go a great way in the raiſing of a plain homely edifice, merely intended for uſe and ſervice, ——not ornament and ſhew,——which, as

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the end of ſeven years, in the ſcheme mentioned above, the apprentice ſhould be releaſed from that article, and moreover, partake of the privileges maiden apprentices are entitled to, who by marrying are, *ipſo facto*, free, and may go to their huſbands.

I ſaid

I ſaid before, are abſolutely ridiculous, and out of character here. After theſe buildings are fitted up for the receiving of children—they might be maintained by the voluntary ſubſcriptions of the inhabitants of the ſeveral counties. —— Regular accounts of children taken in, and thoſe 'prenticed out — of money received and expended —— to be given at the cloſe of every year, to the Lord Lieutenant of each county, who ſhould deliver them to the Secretary of State, that they might be laid before Parliament every ſeſſion. No children of more than three months old to be admitted, and thoſe without any enquiries, as that might, in ſome meaſure, make it fail of its end.

To encourage marriages among ſervants, I would allow them the benefit mentioned above, in regard to portioning the wife, and alſo the ſame liberty allowed to each militia-man, of ſettling in any town ;——theſe advantages might, perhaps, outbalance the preſent inconvenience and reſtriction this body of people labour under,—in reſpect to their marriages, —— to the great hurt and detriment of the nation. —— But, however, it

ſhould

ſhould be but upon one certain conſideration they became entitled to theſe benefits: —— that they married under ſuch an age; —— the man to be not more than twenty-ſeven or thirty; —— and the woman's age not to exceed twenty-five; —— after that —— they ſhould forfeit all title and pretence to theſe advantages. To prevent all frauds and impoſitions, —— ſervants claiming at their marriages theſe benefits—to produce to the prieſt —— certificates of their age and ſervice, — which, likewiſe —— to prevent in the laſt, tricks and impoſtures, —— ſhould be on one ſide —— either man or woman, —— for three years at leaſt as a domeſtic ſervant. — Upon the miniſter's approving theſe, —— he ſhall ſign a paper, ſetting forth their right and claim to partake and enjoy the benefits here propoſed for them.

To reduce, in ſome degree, and to bring within ſome kind of bounds —— thoſe abominable and moſt ſcandalous outrages, we ſee ſo continually committed —— even in the face of open day, —— againſt all decency, morality, and virtue, by the many public ſtands of proſtitutes that daily ply about the

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ſeveral ſtreets, alleys, courts, and moſt frequented walks in, and around the town, — the only remedy muſt be to collect them into public ſtews ;——experience having convinced us, from the meaſures that have been taken in other countries, —— France, Holland, Venice, &c. — this is the only proper, and, indeed, feaſible plan ;—appointing them in different parts of the town, — with proper duennas to regulate and ſuperintend them. No woman belonging to any of theſe ſtews to be ſuffered to appear in the ſtreets, after ſuch an hour of the evening —— varying it according to the different ſeaſons of the year, — on pain of heavy puniſhment,—and as it would be rather too great a reſtraint upon their natural right to liberty, to prohibit their going abroad during the time of day,—certain badges of diſtinction —— ſuch as, my Lord, were by the law of Athens directed to —be wore by women of this ſtamp —might be affixed to their garments, —which would act as a ſort of check upon their behaviour in public. Regulations ſhould be made in regard to ill-health, &c.—and ſuch as were pregnant.

Children born in theſe places, to be conveyed within the month to the Foundling Hoſpital, with a certificate from the duenna of the houſe,——ſpecifying the day, month, &c. of its birth,—together with the name of its parent, and *that*——the mother may be deſirous——her child may go by.

Theſe rules and methods would, I think, in a great degree, anſwer the purpoſes aimed at by them —— would once again free modeſty and decency from thoſe attacks, — that open violence, which——ſhame to the laws——we every day ſee offered to them: 'twould relieve humanity from thoſe thouſand ſhocks——it now is daily ſubject to: —'twould preſerve many a poor, deſponding, heavy-hearted wretch, — whom want and ſhame,——whom wretchedneſs and deſpair would plunge in endleſs ruin and perdition: —— 'twould ſave the lives of many poor beings, who otherwiſe might be forced out of the world, in the inſtant of their appearing in it; —— and, laſt of all, —— 'twould, in a great meaſure—check — and perhaps put a ſtop to the ſpreading of that, —the ſource of many a more fatal diſeaſe,—

and

and which, ——if it has not done it already, —will, in a very ſhort time, —— from the quick progreſs it moves on with at preſent, —totally corrupt, and degenerate the breed of people in this iſland.

Theſe, my Lord, are my ſentiments upon the ſubjects I have mentioned to you.— The plan I have given you is but rough and rudely ſketched out — quite ill ſhapen——but I promiſed you no more, my Lord; as indeed, to have done it, would have been quite unneceſſary with your Lordſhip. I ſhall therefore make no apology for not having performed what at beſt could have been but an idle as well as an uſeleſs attempt.

Theſe are, I think, my Lord,——points worthy the conſideration of every man —— who has the welfare of his country really at heart; and were theſe and ſuch like made the ſubjects of thoſe mens thoughts, who— from their ſituation in life, have it more particularly in their power,—being, in a manner, called to ſerve their country; — diſcontents, ——and the factious noiſe of party diſputes

would prevail leſs among us.—If, inſtead of the endeavours that have been made to diſunite and divide the kingdom; — if, inſtead of making thoſe ill-judged—ill-deſigned diſtinctions, between men born at *this* — and men born at the *other* end of the iſland,— it had been the employment and ſtudy of gentlemen to act with unanimity,——and to uſe their honeſt endeavours towards recovering the nation from the burden, — and rid it of the inconveniences it has become ſubject to from the continuance of the late expenſive war;——we might then have flattered ourſelves with ſome degree of hope, from the joint-aſſiſtance of all, we ſhould have been able to bear up againſt that oppreſſive load, which every thinking man in the kingdom is filled with fears and apprehenſions for the conſequence of *.

And

* Would theſe men, who affect to have great honour, reverence and eſteem for that glorious inſtrument of our delivery, King William, prove it by their practice and conduct, and in attending to his inſtructions and advice, we might then be more inclined to believe them ſincere in their profeſſions.—In his laſt ſpeech to his Parliament

And whence have theſe contentions? —Whence have all theſe attempts to raiſe the ſpirit of ſedition among the people taken their riſe?—I own I was at a loſs to conceive, till chance flinging me the other day into the company of one of theſe worthy patriot-ſpirited Anti-North-Britains, who very candidly let me into the whole myſtery, in the following dialogue.——Why, Sir, do you not remember, ſome time ago— that there was a man, who was born in the North, that got at the head of the Treaſury.—Well, Sir, —And he now, I can aſſure you, directs.—But pray, Sir, give me leave to aſk you, —

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liament—I ſhould think it,—ſays he—as great a bleſſing as could befal England, if I could obſerve *you* as much inclined to *lay aſide* thoſe unhappy *fatal* animoſities, which *divide* and *weaken* you, as *I* am diſpoſed to make all my ſubjects ſafe and eaſy, as to *any*——even the *higheſt offences* committed againſt *me*. Let me *conjure* you to *diſappoint* the *hopes* of your enemies, by your *unanimity*. I *have ſhewn*, and *will always ſhew*, how deſirous I am to be the common father of my people. *Do you*, in like manner, *lay aſide parties* and *diviſions*. Let there be *no other diſtinction* heard of among us for the future; but of *thoſe* who are for the *proteſtant religion*, and the *preſent eſtabliſhment*, and of *thoſe* who *mean* a *popiſh prince*, and a *French government*.

has

has not that gentleman immenſe poſſeſſions, and do not the chief of them, nay, in a manner, all of them,—lay in this ſouthern part of the kingdom?—And does he not by that, Sir, —if a diſtinction is to be made,—become a real Engliſhman,—though he did not actually receive his birth in that diſtrict of the iſle, called England?—That ſignifies not this pinch of ſnuff, my friend.—He was born in North-Britain.—Well, but is there any material poſitive objection to the man, —either as to private character,—or public conduct? Nay, do I not tell you he is a Scotchman,—his family is Scotch,—— his name is Scotch,—his title is Scotch,—and what the devil more would you have?—But I pray you, Sir, is not Scotland accounted as part of Great-Britain?—Yes, but it became ſo only by the Union.——Was not that act, Sir, framed in England,—paſſed and conſented to by its Parliament,—did we not by that become as one people?—And was it not thought a great advantage to *both* parties at that time?—Ay, but *we* don't approve of it *now*.——Why, is not Scotland bound to obſerve ſtrictly the articles of that Bill?——Bound, yes, moſt certainly, and if they—

Is not England too?—But Scotland does not pay a hundredth part of the taxes that even this very city of London does.—What concluſion do you draw from thence?—Why, that they have no right to places of profit and truſt.—Fully ſatisfied with my information, I thanked my friend, and took my leave of him; and as I walked home, I, in my turn, drew a concluſion,—that from the opinion and arguments of theſe gentlemen, there was no man in the kingdom ſo proper for a Miniſter of State—as the Head Alderman of the city of London; for, as that city, from its over-grown bulk and ſize, contributes ſo very largely to the national taxes, its aldermen are, certainly, from this manner of reaſoning,—the beſt entitled to manage and direct the reins of government.

And, indeed, they had once nearly aſſumed this,—undoubtedly,—their privilege. But the K— gently declining theirs,—for the advice of his P——the *natural modeſty* and *diffidence* of the members of *that* corporation,—made them decline thoughts of it for the *preſent*;—though there are not wanting ſome malevolent, ill-natured people in the

the world, who ſcruple not to ſay,——that it was with a degree of *ſullenneſs*, which prevailed ſo far,——they would not even protect and countenance their *own* officers, who met with inſult in the diſcharge of the *city's duty*,—at a conflagration that happened ſome time ago, near the Royal Exchange:—but this is an anecdote that ſpeaks ſo much abſurdity, and, withal, ſhews ſuch a contradiction to reaſon and ſenſe,—and, of courſe, therefore, an unlikely kind of conduct for thoſe gentlemen to have purſued,—who in their *vacant* hours from the employ of their ſhops and ware-houſes, it is well known, ——by the advices almoſt daily received of their frequent meetings and ſittings,—apply with *moſt modeſt aſſiduity* and *officiouſneſs* to the welfare and direction of the nation—rewarding thoſe that do well, and in *adviſing* thoſe,—their *ſuperior* judgment tells them—does ill;—that I attribute it merely to the malicious turn of ſome malevolent aſperſer.——

As to the poor people of the North—I pity them moſt exceedingly.——'Tis true, learning, and, indeed, moſt of the arts, ſeem to be taking

taking up their reſidence among them apace. —— But what will that avail? —— However, as the inhabitants of that ſpot of the iſland are generally allowed to poſſeſs *ſome* ſhare of ſenſe and acuteneſs, I make no doubt, as they find the curſe lights ſo heavily on *their breed*, but they will ſtrike out ſome means of obviating the misfortune, —— and I ſhall not be ſurprized to hear of *their big-bellied* women flying poſt with as much expedition to *kitten* on *this* ſide the *Tweed*—as *our young hot-upon't* couples do—to get tied in a *nooſe* on the *other*.

But to be ſerious, my Lord, — theſe idle ſhifts —— theſe *factious* diſputes, —— that mean no *real* good to the country, and tend only to inflame the popular opinion,—which in a government like ours, is but too ready to catch fire upon every occaſion——are exceedingly ill-timed, as well as misjudged; ——and there is no honeſt good-man, who ſincerely wiſhed, and laboured for the public welfare, but what would uſe his utmoſt endeavours to quell and ſuppreſs ſuch idle, jealous, narrow-minded fears, —— which originally ſprung from the bad hearts——of

ill-intentioned men. Not that, my Lord, I would be underſtood to mean, I think every circumſtance that has fallen out within theſe two laſt years, to have been totally ſo. No, my Lord, Mr. W——'s affair was, in my humble judgment, —— a conſtitutional point.—But whatever my poor opinion may be on that ſubject,——it is much too trifling to trouble your Lordſhip with, —— beſides, the opinion of a majority of the H —— of C—— has, in ſome meaſure, directed that of the nations: —— though, indeed, we are taught by letters and advertiſements, that appear every day in the public papers, to diſpute the lawfulneſs of, and condemn the proceedings of P——; but perhaps this is only a privilege annexed to thoſe who have the honour to be one of that moſt reſpectable body.

'Till now I had always imagined, that what paſſed in either H—— by a majority was conſidered as the act of that H—— and that what went through both, and received the R —— aſſent, became an act of P—— which was then by all people to be conſidered as a law, and that *any* perſon who was then to write upon that proceeding, and

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to ſay that it was an *illegal*, *unconſtitutional* act; —— that it was an *infringement* upon the *liberty* of the ſubject, and *oppreſſive* in the higheſt degree, would be conſidered as *one*, raiſing and ſtirring up ſedition in the minds of his Majeſty's ſubjects, as *one* endeavouring to excite *traiterous* inſurrections againſt his government, as one who diſregarded and contemned the *laws* of his country. But here I find, a diſtinction is to be made.——In a private member of the community, ſuch an inſolent and ſeditious ſpirit would be highly reproachable and infamous; but in a repreſentative of the people, it is the proper ſtyle for him to addreſs his conſtituents in.

Though I own, had I the honour of ſitting in the H—— and was to give my vote for a bill which ſhould receive the aſſent of the three eſtates, and afterwards *ſuch* epithets ſhould be affixed to it, *out of doors*, by men who voted differently upon the queſtion, —— I ſhould not be inclined to let the matter drop quite unnoticed.—For I think, if ſuch conduct is criminal in a poor deſpicable ſcribbler, who writes at random ——

merely to gain his daily ſuſtenance,——it is abominably,—— infamouſly ſo, in one,—called to his country's ſervice,——choſen to conſult and adviſe its intereſt,—to be,—as it were,—the guardian of its *peace*—the ſurety of its *weal*—the promoter of its *general welfare*—For ſuch a man to ſtoop to the low, baſe, dirty tricks of *party*, is *mean* and *ſcandalous*, beyond expreſſion.

Would a man who really had the welfare of his country at heart?—— Would a man who acted only from a patriot zeal, which every honeſt mind is moved by—that means the public good?——Would ſuch a man, I ſay, ſubſcribe himſelf the tool of ſervile faction—— proclaim himſelf as *publicly diſſentious?*——No,—his conduct would be of a far different caſt;—*his* noble generous ſoul,——guided by his NEVER-FAILING principle, HIS COUNTRY'S GOOD,——would exert its honeſt influence toward promoting and purſuing the beſt of meaſures:—and where his well-meaning intentions might not ſucceed,—— he would, with *conſcious* integrity, quietly ſubmit his opinion to what was become the general voice, waiting for the event.

event. —— If *that* proved his fears to have been juſt,——he would then,——as would become the *true* patriot, — try to redreſs the grievance in a *parliamentary*-way,—by moving for a repeal of the bill: —— on ſetting forth its ill-conſequences here,——he might deſcant——to give his arguments the greater force——on its being oppreſſive, illegal, unconſtitutional; —— but *without* doors, —— no *good* end can be propoſed by it, — it may ſerve to *raiſe* feuds, jealouſies, and diſcontents, —— but is by *no* means a remedy for the *redreſſing* of them, unleſs, like an unſkilful phyſician, you eaſe the patient of a ſlight indiſpoſition, he happens to be ſeized with, by inflicting him with another more pungent and *dangerous* to his *conſtitution*.

In ſhort, my Lord,——the misfortune is, that in this land of liberty—for there are few human advantages but what carry with them ſome allay,—we are all miniſters, — we are all capable of adviſing and directing,——and artful deſigning men, practiſing upon this diſpoſition, —— purſue more ſecurely —— under the maſk of public pretences,—their own private intereſts andviews.—Out upon't, what

——what ſhame it is —— that — *that moſt glorious name*, that greateſt —— *nobleſt* title, which can dignify humanity, — ſhould thus be proſtituted and abuſed;——ſo hackneyed is it too——in theſe vile purpoſes,—— that thoſe who really merit and deſerve the name —bluſh that the world ſhould call them *patriots*; — PATRIOT — that ſound in former days would animate —— But, my Lord, I am getting deep into a ſubject, that it would be quite fruitleſs as well as unneceſſary, to trouble your Lordſhip upon; I ſhall therefore, my Lord, take my leave, begging your pardon for the liberty I have aſſumed, in troubling you with this letter, and to believe me,

My Lord,

Your moſt obedient, &c.

J. MEANWELL.

MY dear friend, and courteous reader, whoever thou art, ——of what age, ſex, or condition ſoever thou beeſt of,—— whether young or old,——male or female, — handſome or ugly,—in affluent or indigent circumſtances,—it matters not,—I ſhall make no diſtinction or difference ;—now, that we are got into a page by ourſelves, — free from the reſtraint and awe of company, — I will, without reſerve,— unboſom myſelf to thee upon the ſubject, I had near got deeply plunged into,—whilſt I was talking to the great man, ——on the oppoſite ſide of my paper.

The preſent ſyſtem of patriotiſm is, I think, —— one of the higheſt outrages that can be committed to goodneſs and morality, — and withal —— the greateſt inſult that can poſſibly be offered or put upon any people or country. You hear a man, —— becauſe his idle, extravagant, infamous ſchemes of vanity, ambition, and avarice are broke through, or interrupted — inſtantly declare himſelf to be a *patriot* — a *lover* of *his country*——and to convince the world he is ſincerely ſo ; he immediately *oppoſes* every meaſure of government ; not that *he* has *examin-*

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ed and *found* them to be improper ones, and of *bad* tendency;—but, in ſhort, a *patriot* is to *oppoſe*. He endeavours alſo, by every means he can, to diſtreſs and perplex adminiſtration, —— not that they are faulty in their conduct——or that *he thinks* them ſo,—but a *patriot* muſt *always oppoſe*. He flings the affairs of his country into as great diſorder and confuſion as he is able, —— by raiſing doubts——difficulties—jealouſies—animoſities,——ſuſpicions——and heart-burnings among the people—and to keep up his character to the utmoſt—he aims at doing all the miſchief poſſible——as *the moſt effectual way a* patriot *can oppoſe*. By this, he hopes to create a fear and uneaſineſs in the miniſtry,——who will uſe every method to buy him off—as he calls it,—from the ſervice of his country—will offer to comply with what he originally aimed at —— and add ſomething more for the additional trouble he has been at, by labouring for the *good* of the nation.

Is not this monſtrous, odious, deteſtable?—Is it poſſible to think of this with any degree of patience?——Does it not deſerve the

higheſt

higheſt brand of infamy?—The very worſt of treatment?——And yet what is more commonly practiſed? —— What ſurprizes me moſt is, that this ſtale trick ſhould ſo often paſs.—In any other caſe or circumſtance,—the cheat would have been hooted at long—and long ago,——but in this—moſt important one of all,—men ſeem to wiſh to be deceived,—and cloſe their eyes upon it, for the purpoſe.—— For my part, I never hear the name applied to any one but I inſtantly enquire what it is they have *taken* from him,—what it is he *wants*;—or whether he has been *refuſed* any thing:—for common experience—which is the beſt guide in moſt matters, has proved to me, — that theſe are the ſtrongeſt provocatives to patriotiſm.— Not that I am at all of the opinion ſome people have imbibed,—that a man's holding an employment under the government is at all a neceſſary conſequence —— he muſt become a creature of party, — and forfeits every pretence of being thought to have the intereſt of the kingdom at heart.—It adds, I think, rather to a man's character, as ſerving his country in a double capacity, — provided he makes not his *place* the guide of his principles and conduct: but

his principles and conduct in his place, the means to gain him honour, credit, and applauſe from the world.

What a deſpicable, miſerable wretch, is one of theſe *modern* patriots! —— Let him, in ſome lonely hour, when——for there are times —— however cloſely a man may be attached to favourite ſchemes of ambition and avarice——*other* feels *will* prevail;—let him, in thoſe moments, examine and look into himſelf; — let him then aſk his own heart —— whether he is not acting upon the *moſt* infamous principles, that can guide the conduct of any man? ——Whether he has any other view or purpoſe — than to further his own ſelfiſh narrow-minded intents?—Whether all the clamour he makes of public good is but as a cloak to ſucceed in them the better? — Whether his whole conduct from firſt to laſt——be not one continued ſcene of hypocriſy and deceit? ——The greateſt proſtitution and conſtant mockery of every thing that is commendable and virtuous?—Laſtly, whether—he would not, to gain the point he aims at, —peerage,—place, — or penſion — change inſtantly his ſyſtem, and labour as

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aſſiduouſly on the other ſide of the queſtion?

And this is patriotiſm ——Gods, it would make a thinking man run mad —— that a wretch, who is the very bane of ſociety — a reproach to mankind — and a *curſe* to his country——that ſuch a bundle of *treacherous* villainy ſhould have affixed to it that moſt *god-like* name of *patriot*; —— HE, that like a true fond father of his country, is ever attentive to its welfare and advantage—makes *that* the ſole and anxious ſtudy of his thoughts — not leſs watchful in the guarding of, than in promoting the intereſt of it —— the protector of its conſtitution; the aſſerter of the liberties, and the guardian of the rights of the people. Is of *no* faction —knows *no* diſtinction of parties —— for in *his* mind there can be but *one*——which, however the particulars of may diſagree about the means, yet have all the ſame view in purſuit,—the intereſt of the common-weal.—He always — as is the duty of every good citizen to do ----- endeavours to help and give all the *aſſiſtance* poſſible to government, ----- not to invent means to diſtreſs and perplex it.—— If the

meaſures purſued are *ſuch* as he believes to be contrary to the *real* intereſt of his country, then he *oppoſes*, but 'tis with great moderation and propriety, candid reaſoning and fair argument.—— If the miniſters or heads of an adminiſtration, are, in his opinion, dangerous men; he oppoſes *them* too, but it is upon the ſame principle—— not from *private* views——or *diſcontented* peeviſhneſs,—but from an *honeſt love* he bears his *country*. Such *was* that noble *worthy* peer the late Lord Lonſdale—ſuch is *good* old Le Hunte in whom I envy much our ſiſter iſle:—ſuch may we hope will prove. The ſpace I have left is large enough, and *time*, I truſt, will fill it up.

Oppoſition, ſays Lord Bolingbroke, is now undertaken by young men as an adventure. ——How far he might be juſt in his remark —I ſhall leave thee to determine, my courteous reader. The light it appears to me in ——is one the moſt gloomy and melancholy. I often make it the ſubject of my conſideration —— and I ſee nothing but what is horrid, and ſhocks a man who has any feeling for thoſe who may come after.— The

other evening, as I was ſitting quietly at home, whether from what I had been reading, —— I know not, —— but it took ſuch poſſeſſion of my mind—that even after I had retired to my bed, — it dwelt ſo much upon —and agitated my thoughts to that degree, —— I could not compoſe myſelf to reſt for ſome conſiderable time —— 'till —— at laſt, through very fatigue, I inſenſibly dropt into a ſleep,—when I imagined myſelf to be in the Park, taking —as I am very fond of doing, whenever the weather and buſineſs will permit—my evening walk. — I perceived, methought, at ſome diſtance before me, a comely figure, — clad in a female habit,— moving with great gracefulneſs and dignity towards where I was. — She had on a garment of the moſt beautiful colour I had ever ſeen: it hung looſely about her, but with great elegance and eaſe, and was girt around with a zone of the ſame, having at the end taſſels of gold.—In her right hand ſhe held a ſceptre, and in her left a cap, plain, and void of ornament. — Joy, mirth, and gaiety, gambol'd all around her; good-humour and contentment ſhone in her countenance, and

when

when ſhe ſpoke, you would have ſwore it had been Harmony herſelf.

As ſoon as ſhe came near to the place where I ſtood,—methought ſhe ſtopt, and addreſſed me thus. —— I ſee your aſtoniſhment, Sir, ——and do not in truth much wonder at it, —— for *my appearance thus* is uncommon, and is now merely on your account, —— as I judge you, from the great concern you feel for my intereſt——to be much my friend.—It ſeldom or never happens,——though, 'tis true—I did appear about the middle of the laſt century,——but the times grew ſo violent and hot,—— and finding ambitious deſigning men uſed *me* only as the maſk to carry on their abominable practices, — I ſoon fled from among them.——About the latter end of that ſame century—I did indeed ſhew myſelf again, to redeem my favourite people, which, having accompliſhed, by a GLORIOUS REVOLUTION, I retired with perfect eaſe and content of mind: ——And, as I never make myſelf viſible to the eye of the world—but upon receiving ſome perſonal attack or abuſe, — I hope never to have occaſion to appear in public again, —— though I wiſh

wiſh *ever* to *preſide over*, and *continue among you*. My name is LIBERTY; my father, who was the GENIUS of COMMONWEALTH, grew enamoured of FREEDOM;—ſhe liſtened to his honourable courtſhip — and bore him, me. They gave the care of my infancy to WISDOM and CONCORD; after that I was put under the direction of JUSTICE, who educated me in the principles of my parents: ſhe then delivered me over to the guidance of my own conduct and diſcretion, — enjoining me ever to aſſociate with a ſiſter of her's, whom ſhe termed MODERATION,——aſſuring me, that as long as the connection and friendſhip ſubſiſted between us, I ſhould flouriſh and do well,——but that if I ſuffered any circumſtance to ſeparate me from *her* company, I ſhould immediately ſink, and be in the greateſt danger of being totally loſt:—— And, indeed, I have but too ſenſibly felt and experienced that truth;—for by not attending to her advice in one of the inſtances I have mentioned to you, I had like to have been utterly deſtroyed for ever.

I will now lead you, ſays ſhe, to the court I am ſuppoſed chiefly to preſide over, influence

ence and govern. It ſtands in the weſtern part of the town; we ſhall reach it preſently. In that place, ſays ſhe, I reſt all my confidence and hopes of being maintained, —vindicated,—and ſupported.—If *they* fail me, I am loſt.—In *former* times—much benefit have I received, nay, it is to *them* I owe my being in exiſtence *now*.—But then, alas! —men were more ready to *act* than *ſpeak*,—and in proportion as *words* have gathered ſtrength —— the other, I fear, hath fallen off, and weakened.

As ſhe ſaid this,—I perceived we were got to the place ſhe had ſpoken of—whereupon, turning myſelf towards her to receive my directions,—ſhe made a motion to me to walk into the houſe.—As I entered, hearing a prodigious confuſed noiſe,—I ſtept back, with an intent to have retir'd,—imagining I had miſtaken the door—but upon her bidding me ſtill to go on, —I went in, and having ſeated myſelf, began to look around me, to find out, if poſſible, what was the occaſion of that immenſe violent din that had ſurprized me ſo at firſt.—One ſet, I obſerved, —— were crying out moſt vehemently to hear a man,—whom I

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ſoon found from their manner, — they had no kind of inclination to liſten to,—and only meant, by that means, to prevail upon him to ſit quietly down, and ſpeak none.—Another were got up into a corner, ſnug by themſelves, —— and ſeemed to me to be talking over and ſettling how things ſhould be conducted.——Others were looking about — in ſearch for their acquaintance, —and as they ſucceeded in ſpying them out, ——ſhifted their places accordingly.

All this while, there was a man diſcourſing away moſt audibly, indeed,— for, in order to gain attention by drowning,——as he conceived he might be able——the voices of the many,—— he did ſo bellow, roar, and ſcream, — 'twas all to no purpoſe; —— the odds were too heavy for him; — they quite bore him down,——yet ſtill actuated by the true ſpirit of patriotiſm, he perſiſted, and went on.—— At laſt, a reverend kind of a perſon, whom I obſerved he had chiefly directed his diſcourſe to,——and who ſeemed to have great weight in the aſſembly,—— pitying his ſituation, — aroſe from his chair, and ſpeaking with the voice of authority,—

procured a tolerable degree of ſilence for him. —— The orator having gained breath, as well as attention, —— continued his harangue;——his arm being moved, and acted upon differently from all other pendulums,—for, as they—as well as all other bodies, are enlarged in every other dimenſion in proportion to the degree of heat that is given them, —— which occaſions their vibrations to be *ſlower* — his arm, which ſeemed to be the pendulum of his brain——contrariwiſe —— jerked and vibrated *quicker*, according to the degree of heat that prevailed, —and as that went off, and he grew cooler in his debate, its motion was more ſlow and deliberate.——At length, I perceived he had completely filenced the houſe by the weight of his arguments, which was manifeſted by a general yawn that crept quietly around the room;—this, at firſt, I was rather apprehenſive might diſconcert and interrupt him.—— No——his patriotiſm—was invincible,—not at leaſt eaſily——to be ſhaken,——and being bleſſed with that happy confidence in himſelf,—which the polite part of the world call——*aſſurance*,——but the more vulgar, ——*impudence*, he, with *undaunted modeſty*, talked on.

My

My fair conductreſs obſerving me equally affected—by the force of his reaſoning,—— with the reſt of the company, touched me upon the ſhoulder,—and with a ſmile upon her countenance,—— bid me take notice of a thing, —— as ſhe called him, —— on the oppoſite ſide of the houſe, that was buſily whiſpering in the ear of a man who ſat next him.—He ſeemed to me to be one of thoſe tribe of men —— who have always an immenſe deal of buſineſs upon their hands, but yet, have never any thing to employ them.—He carried with him an air of great importance;——to confirm which, he ſcarce ever remained a moment in any one place —— This inſtant he was talking to a man on a ſubject——you would judge by the ſerious ſettled countenance he put on, the very eſſence or being of the kingdom abſolutely depended——on one ſide;——the next—you would ſee him on the other —— reaching over——to ſpeak to a man,——three or four benches below him;——and in a third he would be in cloſe whiſper with a man at the end of the houſe.——That animal, ſays ſhe, would be thought to be my *moſt conſiderable* advocate and friend, and that on *him*

reſts my great ſupport and dependance.—— He would have the world imagine that he is *chef de parti*, —— and that he has the management,——the adviſing,——and the directing of every thing that is done.——But, indeed, no one ever yet did, or will bring his own judgment ſo far into queſtion,—— as even but to ſuppoſe, — that he has either ſpirit or abilities to become the one,—or that he has knowledge or good-ſenſe ſufficient to do either of the others.——In ſhort, all I know of him is, that he's the offspring of Pride, begot upon the body of Impertinence; —— Folly nurſed him, —— Ignorance tutor'd him,——and Impudence introduced him into the world.—— 'Tis *ſuch ſupporters* as theſe that go near to ruin my intereſt and cauſe, and loſe thoſe privileges and rights which the *honeſt efforts* of *well*-meaning men have *won* and *gained* for me.

Fully ſatisfied in regard to this perſon, — I withdrew my eyes to one who had riſen up to ſpeak, and was directing himſelf to the ſame grave gentleman,—the other had done before him. —— All was huſh; —— every body was attention itſelf, —— and I liſtened

to

to him with great pleaſure,—— for in truth he ſpoke moſt eloquently; — his words were well choſen; ——his periods elegant, — and his arguments finely ranged; —— but yet methought there was a coldneſs in his manner,—which ſeemed as if in what he ſpake his head was more conſulted than his heart, ——I turned me round to expreſs my ſentiments to my female friend, and alſo the ſatisfaction, —— that, —— notwithſtanding, —— I felt in hearing him ſpeak, —— but ſhe, gueſſing partly at what I was going to ſay, prevented me, by ſaying,— Aye, — but 'tis the actions and conduct of a man that are the beſt teſts by which to judge of his inward inclinations and diſpoſition.— I cannot therefore but think it highly fortunate, that his have been ever ſuch, not only as a private member of the community, but alſo in the public character he once appeared in, for his country's ſervice; —— that the moſt ſcrupulouſly nice cannot poſſibly cenſure, —— for, had *he been* —— as *ſome men are* —— *notoriouſly infamous* in the *neglect* of his *own duty*, in the *moſt important* and *eſſential* points of his profeſſion —— good gods! would it not have ſurprized and aſtoniſhed you then, to

have

have ſeen a man iſſue forth as the *champion* of JUSTICE, of LIBERTY, and of VIRTUE, whoſe *actions have* affixed to him —— the *public ſtamp* of ignominious diſgrace?

From the manner and tone of voice, in which ſhe ſpoke, —— I was quite at a loſs to judge of what ſhe had been ſaying;——I, therefore, fixed my eyes upon her countenance, with a view to have gathered from thence her meaning,—— but ſhe perceiving my intent,——bid me obſerve a perſon who was ſitting upon the lowermoſt bench, at the upper end of the houſe, who *ſeemed* to be much infirm'd by diſeaſe.—— He is a man, ſays ſhe, I have great reaſon to *ſpeak well* of,——for he hath often done ſo of me; and in ſome parts of his life —— he has *acted* well by me,----and with reſolution too----- though in order to rid me of one diſorder, -----he has ſubjected me to another ſo grievous and deſtructive, ------ that I much fear, if ever I ſhall be able thoroughly to ſhake it off,----at leaſt not without great trouble and difficulties,------ and poſſibly not without a *total* break up of *my conſtitution*.------However, I am willing to think, that upon the whole,

whole, the man means me well,——though I own, at times,—I have ſtrange miſgivings: — as it *has* happened, that when I have been in *moſt* want of his aſſiſtance and help, — I could not prevail upon him *heartily* to befriend and ſupport *me:* —— and of *late*, I have been ſomewhat inclined to think him rather of the trimming ſect. —— But, perhaps, this may have proceeded merely from my diſpoſition and temper, — which are rather of a jealous and ſuſpicious nature. —— However, poor man, he is horridly decrepit.—The ſpring of the year will ſoon come in——and then, probably, he will get rid of his crutch. —— It is a ſad political inconvenience. ——We'll leave him to his recovery, poor ſoul, — which will be ſhortly brought about, I dare venture to pronounce—for 'tis *this* part of the year that is his diſtreſs.

See you yonder tall figure, that is ſtanding as an humble ſpectator, and hearer of the debate.—That, ſays ſhe, has made himſelf the moſt *buſy* perſon in my cauſe of any of his rank — but the manner he has acted in, — the ill-judged methods, and inconſiſtent improper ſteps — I am loath'd to term them

ſo, — for I would willingly believe he is my *firm* friend and well-wiſher — he hath made choice of—falling from his dignity and rank, —which, had it been maintained and well kept up—would have gained reſpect, — and added honour to our cauſe —— to pad the ſtreets—and head the *factious* cry of *mobbiſh* tumult.—Oh, it was meanly done—and ſavoured more of outward ſhew and ſemblance—than of inward *real* principle and *honeſty*. — I greatly fear my miſbegotten ſiſter has thus miſguided him. — She hath much *my* ſhape and form — and to eyes that look not deeply into things, — might paſs for *me*, without ſuſpicion. —— She is younger than I am, and the manner of her being brought into the world is ſomething particular.

My father—, who, as I told you before, —was the GENIUS OF COMMONWEALTH, being much enfeebled in conſtitution,—and mouldering faſt with age — RIOT, who long had look'd with luſtful eyes on FREEDOM, yet comely, fair, and beautiful — uſed every art that cunning could ſuggeſt—to gratify his damn'd intent. — 'Twas all in vain — her noble nature was proof 'gainſt every practice. —At

—At length, in ſome unhappy hour,—when ſhe had retired to lament alone in ſecret—her much-lov'd honourable lord's decay, and weep her wretched hapleſs fortune.—RIOT, who was ever prowling near *her* home, came where ſhe was; FREEDOM inſtantly endeavoured to avoid deſtruction by her flight—impoſſible—he purſued, quickly o'ertook, and dragg'd her back—and what artifice and craft could not obtain, force ſoon accompliſhed.—This fatal act produced a child, whom RIOT gave to VANITY and OSTENTATION to be nurs'd.——MALIGNITY and DISORDER—took care of its education,---- and ſince that ſhe hath ever made FACTION her *conſtant* companion.-----She is called LICENTIOUSNESS,——and this is her, whom I much fear hath led aſtray yon man;—who, but for this cheat, might otherwiſe have been *my* friend.——It grieves me heavily.—Here, methought, ſhe pauſed, and drooping down her head,——ſeemed as one fixed in penſive mournful thought.——Perceiving her to continue ſtill, oppreſſed with melancholy—I deſired her we might withdraw—hoping, by removing her from the object of her uneaſineſs—ſhe might ſoon again recover her wonted ſprightlineſs and gaiety.

We had not gone far—before I obſerved her countenance ſuddenly change;—and before I could have time to recover my ſurprize,—and enquire the reaſon,— ſhe ſeized hold of my hand,—and with more joy and eagerneſs in her face than methought I had ſeen expreſs'd there before,—ſhe bad me fix my attention on a perſon who was moving towards the place we had juſt left. — He was of a tall manly figure, — and tho' he ſeemed ſomewhat infirmed by diſeaſe and illneſs, — was yet graceful and comely. — In his countenance were pictured—good-nature—ſenſe, ——and affability.—— He wore below his knee—the nobleſt enſign of nobility,——the mark of royal honour. There, ſaid ſhe, as he paſſed by us,——there goeth the man,— whom of all others——I the moſt value and eſteem. He runs not out into frothy, vain and empty words,——like an exuberant tree that puts forth nought but uſeleſs branches,—— but like a goodly one, ſpares unneceſſary ſhoots, and yields an wholeſome, profitable fruit.—— View him in what character you will,——he is wholly amiable,—— worthy of eſteem,—— and much indeed to be beloved. In *public* life he's juſt and able, active and ſincere. In *private* life he's open,

generous, friendly, and humane. His *learning* and *knowledge* are as extenſive as his *generoſity* and *goodneſs*, which can only be added to——by the obliging manner, and willing diſpoſition he ſhews upon all occaſions, of contributing to the eaſe, happineſs, and content of every individual. In *others*, 'tis moſt common, that the *titles* and *honours* are what gain regard and reſpect to the *man*; — in *him* 'tis the *man* that creates an eſteem and veneration for,——by reflecting *honour* upon ——his *nobility*: and ſo deep hath *charity* taken root in him,——never was his ear acquainted with that diſtreſs his benevolent hand did not reach out relief unto.——Step with me, ſaid ſhe,—— for a moment, into this time-ſhaken manſion,——and you ſhall be convinced of his worth and goodneſs, from proof and example.

She led me then, methought, into a moſt melancholy gloomy cell, — where chill and unhealthy damps hung around the walls, — and *miſery* and *want* ſeemed —— as it were, ——to *ſhew themſelves* to *view*, — proclaiming it the cave of deep——calamitous affliction.——In a dark corner,— leaning on her knees,— was the ſad habitant of this mournful

ful place,——with three poor helpleſs babes, ——who ſmiled in innocence,—and fondly clung around her. —— *She*, with her hands upheld, — and eyes full fixed on heaven,— the tears of *joy* creeping adown her cheeks in the ſmeared tracks, which thoſe of *miſery* had traced :—— In fervent prayer addreſſed herſelf to GOD ;— Returning grateful thanks for *benefits* beſtowed, —— and *timely ſuccour* ſent ; — and *humbly begged his bleſſing* might be ſhed on *him*,—— by whoſe *humanity* ſhe lived :——pronouncing then, with *rapturous.* delight, her *benefactor's* name ; — the *children* caught the *well-known pleaſing* ſound, and joining, with one voice they echoed--- PERCY'S *name* to *heaven.*

I was ſo moved and agitated with the ſcene, ——that I awaked, to my no ſmall grief and diſappointment.— Fearing leſt it ſhould, any part of it, ſlip my memory, —— I inſtantly aroſe, and put it down upon paper, —as thou haſt here read it, —— and if it pleaſeth thee but one fiftieth part ſo much in the peruſing of—as it did me in the dreaming of it — my end will be abundantly anſwered,—which was to add ſomething to thy amuſement, — as well as to thy inſtruction.

And

And now, my dear friendly reader, —— I have but one or two things more to ſettle with thee, — and then I ſhall bid thee farewel.—Firſt, I am to beg, that thou wouldſt not imagine envy, malice, or ill-nature have taken poſſeſſion of my pen.——In that ſuppoſition,——by the word of an honeſt man, for ſuch I would willingly think——and be thought — I am — thou would'ſt wrong me much.—No, in good truth—the characters I have dreamt of——ſhould be conſidered as pictures,——that an idle painter, who having no,—if I may ſo term it,—*cuſtomary* employment,— has daubed out, merely at random, to amuſe, *inſtruct*, and entertain.—Now, was an immenſe deformed ugly fellow to come into his ſhop,—view his performances,---and upon being told that one bore a juſt reſemblance of himſelf,——he was to fly out, ſwear,—ſtorm,—rave,— and abuſe the poor artiſt for an inſolent rogue,---in daring to delineate his features, —— would you not think him ſtrangely mad----in acting thus: ---- ſo here it would be equally ſo.-----For I declare I have not the honour of being perſonally acquainted with any gentleman——that either of theſe characters ſuit,——except thoſe that have a name affixed to them; nor have I put

to

to them---any titulary mark ----initial-----or any thing by way of diſtinguiſhing, or helping you on to find out a reſemblance to any one.---Therefore, if any ſhould ſay,---this is mine, ——— that is intended for me, ——— and I am meant here, ——— all the anſwer I can poſſibly make is, --- *qui capit ille facit*;---but muſt beg them to obſerve, it is not I who point out the likeneſs ——but themſelves---- or the world.

And now, my dear kind reader,——I beg thee to pardon all the incorrections thou may'ſt have noticed,—as many ſuch, no doubt, thou wilt obſerve.——For in truth——I have not wrote from my *head*, but from my *heart*. — The *laſt* has been *ſolely* my guide, — and the firſt hath, I fear, been *too little* conſulted;— Which, if not from any intrinſical value in itſelf, may yet, at leaſt, be thought to have merit——from its *novelty*: — but I truſt to thy good-nature to excuſe every thing. Adieu. My friend, many thanks to thee for thy kind attention. Adieu—God bleſs you.—Adieu.

FINIS.